

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 3-12 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, regarding Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein one disc is mounted to extend laterally from a rotatable cylinder within the shaft, the other disc being mounted to extend laterally from the outer surface of a rotatable cylinder within which the shaft rotates, the shaft being mounted coaxially within the cylinder, with the cylinder having a helical slot through which an inner portion of the one disc adjacent the shaft extends, rotation of the shaft relative to the cylinder producing relative axial movement between the shaft and the cylinder by the virtue of the disc moving in the slot in the cylinder and causing the one disc which is overlying the other disc to mask, or expose, the other disc by an extent dependent on the relative positions of rotation." and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claims.

Applicant's arguments filed 04/09/08, have been fully considered and are deemed persuasive.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THANH S. PHAN whose telephone number is (571)272-2109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on 571-272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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for Thanh S. Phan, Examiner of Art Unit 2833